

Tsunami Alert

Posted: March 11, 2011

This Warden Message alerts U.S. citizens traveling to, or residing on the Pacific coast of Peru of a possible tsunami wave which is anticipated to hit land between 16:30 and 21:35 local time on March 11, 2011. A massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake occurred in the Pacific Ocean near Northeastern Japan during the early morning hours of March 11, causing extensive damage. The large earthquake triggered a tsunami warning for countries bordering the Pacific Ocean. Peruvian authorities are especially concerned about the potential effects upon local coastal areas and beaches. The Embassy recommends that citizens monitor local news, follow instructions broadcast by Peruvian authorities. In addition, those near the coast should refrain from entering the water. As a precaution, travelers should avoid low-lying coastal areas during the time-frame that the waves might hit; the Embassy has, as a precaution, placed the "Costa Verde" in Lima, coastal highways, and area beaches off limits to its employees from 16:00 March 11 to 0600 March 12.

As useful background set forth below is guidance from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) regarding tsunamis: "A tsunami is a series of waves and the first wave may not be the largest. Tsunami wave heights cannot be predicted and can vary significantly along a coast due to local effects. The time from one tsunami wave to the next can be five minutes to an hour, and the threat can continue for many hours as multiple waves arrive. When no major waves are observed for two hours after the estimated time of arrival or damaging waves have not occurred for at least two hours then local authorities can assume the threat is passed. Danger to boats and coastal structures can continue for several hours due to rapid currents. As local conditions can cause a wide variation in tsunami wave action, the all clear determination must be made by local authorities".

End of Warden Message